

## ON A NEW SPECIES OF ACACIA.

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(Communicated by J. H. Maiden, I.S.O., F.R.S.)

## ACACIA CHEELII, n.sp.

Frutex, nonnunquam ad arborem minorem auctus, 12-35-pedalis, glaber, ramis junioribus angulatis mox teretibus, glaucis. Phyllodia glauca, anguste ad late falcata, utrinque attenuata, apice ferrugineo aliquanto prominenter mucronato, 10-18 cm. (4-7") longa,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -3 cm. lata, tenuiora, 3-6 plus minusve prominentibus nervis inter quos videntur multæ subtiles parallelæ venæ. Glandula in basi insita.

Spicæ binæ vel ternæ, nunc paniculatæ, rhachi glauca glabraque, pedunculatæ, crebris floribus, 4-5 cm. longæ. Flores 5-, nonnunquam 4- vel 6-meri. Calyx brevis simus, aureus, pubescens vel subglaber, lobis minutis. Corolla longior, glabra, petalis acutis semicohærentibus. Stylus longus, glaber. Ovarium canescens.

Legumen breviter stipitatum, glabrum, anguste lineare, rectum vel paullo arcuatum, coriaceum, marginibus incrassatis, 12-15 cm. longum; semina oblonga, nigra, 4-6 mm. longa; funiculus albus, e basi dilatatus, generans arillum semel vel bis vel raro ter plicatum super extremitatem seminis eminentem; areola utrinque notata, oblonga, semen ipsum longitudine vix æquans.

A glabrous shrub or small tree, 12-35 feet high, with glaucous angular young branches, soon becoming terete. Phyllodia glaucous, narrow to broad falcate, attenuate at both ends, tipped with a somewhat prominent ferruginous point, 10 to 18 cm. long (about 4-7 inches),  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 cm. broad, rather thin, with 3 to 6 more or less prominent nerves, and numerous fine parallel veins between them. Gland basal.

Spikes in pairs or threes, sometimes paniculate, the rachis glaucous and glabrous, pedunculate, dense, 4 to 5 cm. long. Flowers 5 merous or occasionally 4-6-merous. Calyx very short, golden-pubescent or nearly glabrous, the lobes minute. Corolla glabrous, rather long; petals acute, united to the middle. Style long, glabrous; ovary hairy.

Pods shortly stipitate, glabrous, narrow-linear, straight or nearly so, flat, coriaceous, with thickened margins, 12-15 cm. long, 5 mm. broad, slightly contracted between the seeds. Seeds oblong, black, 4-6 mm. long, funicle white, dilated from the base, forming an aril of 1-2, rarely 3, folds over the end of the seed. Areola visible on both sides of the seed, oblong, and nearly as long as it.

*Type-locality*.—Manilla, New South Wales (L. H. Preston and H. Stoddart; flowers, September; and fruits, December, 1916).

*Systematic position*.—The new species belongs to the Julifloræ-Falcatæ Section. Its nearest affinity is *A. glaucescens* Willd., from which it differs in the longer, uniformly narrow and more falcate and glabrous phyllodia; in the larger and yellower flower-spikes; the glabrous corolla; also in the longer and thicker pod, and larger seeds. It is readily separated from *A. glaucescens* Willd., by the glabrous and glaucous phyllodes, and the ferruginous young tips. The phyllodes of *A. glaucescens* Willd., are minutely silvery-pubescent, or, in the very young stage, golden-pubescent.

It would appear that this new species is often associated with *A. Cunninghamii* Hk., and has been confused with it in many instances; but the free nerves and the shape of the phyllodia enable one to separate it at a glance from that species. In carpological characters, it is also different.

*Bark*.—The bark is brownish, and flaky, inclined to be ribbony, hence the name "Stringybark-Wattle" applied to it by bushmen. The bark of *A. glaucescens* Willd., and *A. Cunninghamii* Hk., is hard and rugged.

*Size*.—It is a much smaller tree than *A. glaucescens* Willd., attaining a height of about 35 feet, though usually only 15 to

20 feet high; while *A. glaucescens* Willd., very often exceeds 50 feet in height.

*Timber*.—The timber, when fresh, has a very pleasant odour. It is not very heavy when green, and rarely exceeds 9" in diameter. Sapwood white and tough; heartwood brown, of a satiny lustre; grain free and straight.

*Fodder-value*.—Mr. T. W. Seaward, of Miranee, Gundy, writes (in August, 1902, during the severe, Upper Hunter drought) that specimens of this wattle, which grows on the spurs of the Lagoon Mountain, Page River, had been handed to him by a teamster, who was trying to keep his bullocks alive by lopping. The bullocks were leaving the Kurrajong and eating these twigs in preference.

Mr. Gordon Burrows, Narrabri, writes (September, 1912), "Curracabah, an *Acacia* highly valued in this district as a fodder-plant. I have even heard it rated as better for cattle than Kurrajong." And again (in December, 1916), "Edible for stock, locally known as 'Curracabah'."

Mr. E. H. Gall, Waipanuko, Pallamallawa, writes, (August, 1917): "Owing to the dry spell, I am still feeding cattle on the bush, and they appear to be doing well."

*Range*.—It is chiefly confined to the north-west parts of New South Wales. Its geographical range, as shown by herbarium specimens, extends from Murrurundi north to Warialda, westward to the Pilliga, and thence southward as far as Mudgee.

*Localities*.—Mudgee (W. S. Campbell); Murrurundi, small tree up to 20 feet high, growing in semi-exposed situations, on the sides and near the summit of steep stony hills (W. F. Blakely); summit of Mt. Duri, 3150 feet, andesite formation; Currabubula (R. H. Cabbage, No. 3546); spurs of the Lagoon Mountain at Page River (W. T. Seaward); Gunnedah (M. H. Simon); Quirindi (W. McDonald); Chilcott's Creek, Warrah (J. Gregson); Manilla, about 10 miles from town (L. H. Preston, H. Stoddart) [Mr. Preston writes, from the type-locality, Manilla, that "The trees are growing on a poor, stony, steep hill-side, for the most part facing the north, and formed originally a very

thick scrub, but bush-fires and ringbarking have reduced their numbers. They are to be found in other parts of this district, on the top of the Borah range of mountains, as well as in the locality known as the 'Mud Hut' Paddock, 'Kir Konel,' being some 10 miles up stream from Manilla, on the right bank of the River Namoi."]; Tia Falls, Walcha (W. Forsyth & E. Cheel); Baan Baa (J. L. Boorman); Nemingha, near Tamworth, on serpentine-outcrop (W. M. Carne); Gulf Creek, Barraba (J. Batey); Barber's Pinnacle, Boggabri (R. H. Cambage, No. 2470); Bingara (J. L. Boorman); on sand-ridges, near Baradine (J. Winters and G. Burrows); Narrabri (J. L. Boorman and G. Burrows); Warrumbungle Ranges (W. Forsyth); Pilliga Scrub, local name "Motherumbah," 10 feet high, in Pine scrub (E. H. F. Swain); Ashford (J. L. Boorman); Warialda (E. J. Hadley, Rev. H. M. R. Rupp), the most northerly locality.

Named in honour of Mr. Edwin Cheel, Senior Botanical Assistant, National Herbarium, Sydney, who has devoted many years to the study of the native flora.